



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson**

***Lost in the Shuffle: Examining TSA's Management of Surface Transportation Security Inspectors***

July 28, 2010 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee hearing entitled “Lost in the Shuffle: Examining TSA’s Management of Surface Transportation Security Inspectors”:

“Today, we will evaluate TSA’s management of the Surface Transportation Security Inspection Program and discuss the role of surface transportation security inspectors. We want to understand how effective this program is in securing our Nation’s transit systems, highways, and rail lines against terrorist attack.

Like the Chairwoman stated, just last year, a plot to attack the New York City subway system was uncovered, and in recent years we have seen the horrific attacks on a commuter rail line in Madrid in 2004, on the London transit system in 2005, on the Mumbai Suburban Railway in 2006 and 2008, and on Moscow’s subway earlier this year.

The question on all of our minds is, “What are we doing here at home to address the terrorist threat to our Nation’s highway, transit, and rail systems?”

TSA is responsible for the security of all modes of transportation, yet TSA’s record to date for implementing functional surface security programs has been poor.

For example, two critical surface regulations required by the 9/11 Act to address frontline employee security training and security assessments are more than 2 years overdue.

Earlier this month, I met with the new TSA Administrator – John Pistole – and I have his assurance that addressing surface transportation security will be a priority for him. The Members of this Committee stand ready to work with the new Administrator on this very important issue.

Today, the Inspector General will discuss his critical assessment of how TSA is carrying out its surface transportation security mission, with a particular emphasis on its management of the surface transportation security inspectors.

This evaluation will help our Members and Administrator Pistole in developing a roadmap for TSA to improve this program and other surface transportation security programs in the future.”

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